



5/10/96

Dear Zelle.

It has been wonderful to recall our pleasant years together through many unexpected retirement years.

My sister, Margaret and I are the only two left of our devoted family. All in-laws are gone also. I am living with Margaret in her country home.

Nieces and nephews are too far away to come this way often.


I have some blurred vision, stiff joints but still manage all personal necessities. I am thankful for health of mind and body to arise each day to try to do something helpful.

Hope you have been in good health, and enjoying the activities you like to do in both work and pleasure. I recall your devotion to family members.

May there always be many near you to share love and companionship.

With love,  
Ethel

April 26, 1996



Dear Lucille,

Thank you so much for your  
Holiday greetings and good wishes.  
Yours were the first to arrive at my  
new home.


My sincere congratulations to you on  
many years of successful teaching. I am so  
glad you have received public recognition  
and rewarded for your dedicated services.  
It was a special pleasure to receive news  
about your family. I remember vividly  
your sisters and brother. It was a wise  
decision to retain your home where all can  
enjoy get-togethers and keep in close touch.

I have moved to the country home of my  
only surviving sister. The children of deceased  
brothers and sisters averages one to a state.

Some detour this way once a year, and are  
good in telephoning.

Time swiftly passes me leaving  
my undone duties to multiply double.

I am thankful for the patience of friends





and loved ones who accept my increasing  
slow progress.

May all your future years of teaching be  
personally rewarding in all relationships.

May your retirement years be just  
what you desire.

Sincerely,

Ethel Burton

It is an honor to represent the faculty of East Central Junior College on a day such as today, when two new learning facilities are being dedicated.

These buildings can only come alive when they are filled with students. It is the student who breathes life to a campus and causes it to become alive. It is the whole function of the other parts, faculty, administration and service personnel to aid in changing boys and girls into thinking men and women.

Because of my close associations with many of the teaching faculty here at East Central, I share their thoughts and beliefs. We have chosen classroom teaching as our field of work because of its unique opportunities. The student represents more to the East Central Junior College teacher than a number, or an object to instruct on holding down a job. The great challenge is to aid and instruct in how to live. It has been proven that machines can never take our place. Machines can aid, but it is the day by day relationships between teachers and students that the goals of education can be achieved. Those who excell we share in their happiness and those who fail a little of us die with them.

This classroom building offers to the faculty a physical environment conducive to meeting the educational needs of students. The adequate space was one of the greater needs of teachers. The office space in this building provides the faculty with the needed area for study and council with students. The classrooms and general environment of the building provides an atmosphere for learning.

Newton Hall replaces my academic memories of East Central. As a student here, every class I attended except Biology was in that building. The old classroom building twenty-five years ago housed the office of the president, business office, academic dean, registrar, auditorium, library, post office, boiler room and most of the classes taught on campus. All the memories of my teachers and what they meant to me were enclosed in that one building.

Times change and progress must be made to keep with the changes. Twenty-five years from now when present day students return to this campus, I hope this building and its memories mean as much to them as the old classroom building did to me.

The new library building across the way is truly an achievement for our college and our area.

The naming of this building for Miss Burton is an honorable endeavor. The library building with all its beauty, charm, and potential for service is in keeping with this one woman. This woman who gave her working years to this institution, who went about her job with dedication and never asked for material rewards or public recognition. Former students of Miss Burton and faculty members who worked with Miss Burton applaud this administration and board of trustees in naming our new library for Miss Ethel Burton.

The faculty of East Central on this dedication day, dedicate ourselves to accept the challenge that the library and its materials will become a vital part of our teaching. It is our desire that students at East Central will develop a love for reading, a desire to investigate and research so they may become independent thinkers, that no strange erratic doctrine can capture their minds and they will never become a slave to any man.

Lucille Wood - 51  
Dedication Speech - Burton Library

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